

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).
2. (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein:
duration between the receiving step and the spraying step falls within a range of one second or shorter.
3. (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim ~~1 or 2~~ 10, wherein:
the gas flow rate in the receiving step falls within a range between 5 % and 20% for the gas flow rate in the spraying step.
4. (currently amended): A method as claimed in ~~any one of claim 1 or 2~~ claim 10, wherein:
the molten glass has a viscosity between 30 and 2 poises.
5. (currently amended): A method as claimed in ~~any one of claim 1 or 2~~ claim 10, further comprising the step of:
taking out the glass gob from the molding die when a temperature of the glass gob falls within a range of a glass transition point or lower.
6. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a molded glass product, comprising the steps of:
reheating the glass gob manufactured by the method claimed in claim ~~1 or 2~~ 10;
press-molding the glass gob so as to produce the glass molded products.
7. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing an optical device, comprising the steps of: manufacturing an optical device blank by the method claimed in claim ~~6~~ 10; and grinding and polishing the optical device blank in order to produce the optical device.
8. and 9. (cancelled):

10. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a glass gob, comprising the steps of:

receiving a down-flowing molten glass on a molding die;
separating the molten glass with a predetermined weight from the flowing molten glass by rapidly lowering the molding die;
remaining the molten glass with the predetermined weight on the molding die; and
spraying the molten glass with gas in order to form the glass gob under such a condition that the molten glass is floated or slightly floated,

wherein the receiving step is carried out by spraying the molten glass with gas having a flow rate lower than the gas used in the spraying step, ~~or the receiving step is carried out without performing the gas spraying.~~

11. (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
the glass gob is made of a molding material used in a precise press molding process.

12. (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

reheating the molding material; and
precisely press-molding the reheated molding material so as to produce glass molded products.